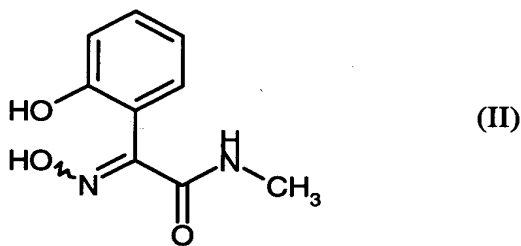


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

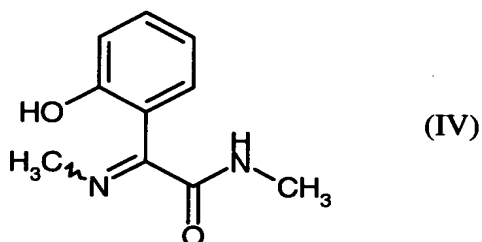
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (amended): [~~Compound~~] A compound of the formula (II)

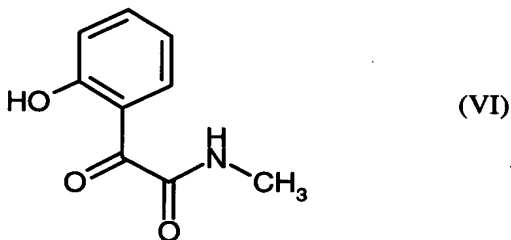


Claim 3 (amended): [~~Process~~] A process for preparing the compound of [~~the formula (II) as defined in~~] Claim 2 [~~, characterized in that~~] comprising [~~d~~] reacting the compound of the formula (IV)



[~~is reacted~~] with hydroxylamine or an acid addition complex thereof,
if appropriate in the presence of a diluent and if appropriate in the presence of a
buffer medium, or

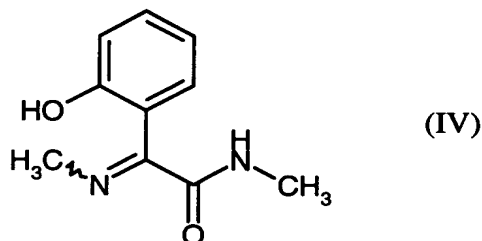
[~~e~~] reacting the compound of the formula (VI)



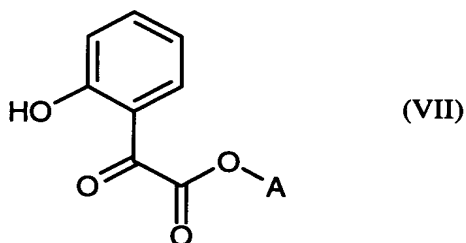
[~~is reacted~~] with hydroxylamine or an acid addition complex thereof,

if appropriate in the presence of a diluent and if appropriate in the presence of a buffer medium; and
collecting the reaction product.

Claim 4 (amended): [~~Compound~~] A compound of the formula (IV)

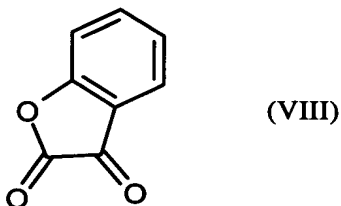


Claim 5 (amended): [~~Process~~] A process for preparing the compound of [~~the formula (IV) as defined in~~] Claim 4 [~~, characterized in that~~] comprising
[~~f~~] reacting a compound [~~compounds~~] of the formula (VII)



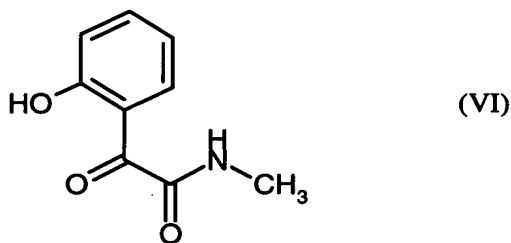
in which

A represents alkyl or optionally substituted aryl,
[~~are reacted~~] with methylamine, if appropriate in the presence of a diluent, or
[~~g~~] reacting the compound of the formula (VIII)

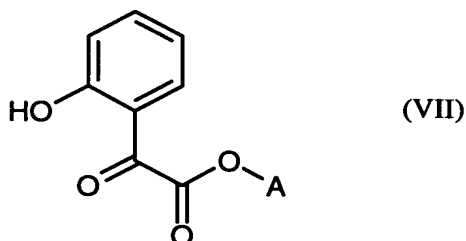


[~~is reacted~~] with methylamine, if appropriate in the presence of a diluent; and
collecting the reaction product.

Claim 6 (amended): ~~[Compound]~~ A compound of the formula (VI)

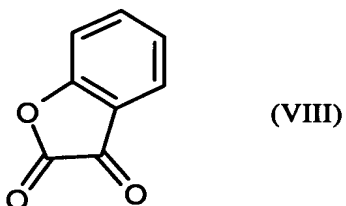


Claim 7 (amended): ~~[Process]~~ A process for preparing ~~[a] the~~ compound of ~~[the formula (VI), as defined in] Claim 6~~ comprising
~~[h)] reacting a compound~~ comprising of the formula (VII)



in which

A represents alkyl or optionally substituted aryl,
~~[are reacted]~~ with methylamine, if appropriate in the presence of a diluent, and
following the reaction, treating the reaction mixture ~~[is treated]~~ with an acid, or
~~[i)]~~ reacting the compound of the formula (VIII)



~~[is reacted]~~ with methylamine, if appropriate in the presence of a diluent, and
following the reaction, treating the reaction mixture ~~[is treated]~~ with an acid; and
collecting the reaction product.

Claims 8-10 (canceled)